CSCI0200 Newsletter

Points of contact:
Kathi & Elijah: cs200-profs@brown.edu

EdStem!!! Staff is always ready to answer any questions or concerns you have about the course!!

Course Location:
MWF 11-11:50 am
@ Salomon DECI Auditorium

PS. PLS come to class >ꞷ<

Cat Picture of the Week

Action Items- Week 1/22-1/24

- Homework 0: Getting Set up for cs0200
  - handout link: https://docs.cs200.io/s/wURBHeqr1
  - This consists of:
    - Setting up your Software
    - Setting up GitHub
    - Lab Selection
    - Background Survey

Looking into the future /˃̣·�·≤̣ᐁ ...

Week 1/24-1/28

For this week, HMWK 0 setup is essential to complete Homework 1-A (CS15)&(CS11/12/17/19)

- This homework assignment will be based on the introductory track you are coming from! So it will "catch you up" to content your peers from a distinct track have seen but you have not. Think of it as a building block to touch bases on future assignments! 0o0

Resources of the week (^º̣ꞷº̣^)

Meow! welcome back to campus! Thank you for registering/shopping CSCI200, we are going to have so much fun building- off introductory course you have taken in the past through learning and mastering data structures and algorithms!

We also want to welcome y'all to our CS0200newsletter were we will be sharing resources/opportunities here on campus(maybe even off-campus OwO)that can better improve your CS experience!

For this week:
- **2 Mental Health Options beyond CAPS:** In addition to Counseling and Psychological Services individualized appointments, Brown offers a variety of underused options for students seeking mental wellness resources, including the following.
- TimelyCare is a virtual health service providing teletherapy sessions and unlimited wellness videos. TimelyCare is of no cost to students. While students are provided 12 sessions for the year, students seeking further appointments can request more sessions free of charge through CAPS.
- Group Counseling is an additional/alternative option for students with diverse backgrounds and needs offered by Brown. This semester, groups include an ADHD Support Group, Queer and Trans of Color Support Group, Trans and Gender Diverse Support Group, and more. Groups meet weekly on dates specified in the link provided.

Q Thank you for reading!! ꙭ^>ꞷ<^ ꙭ   X

CSO200 Newsletter

Pics of the week

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sweet trip.

dri f16.
velocity : design : comfort.
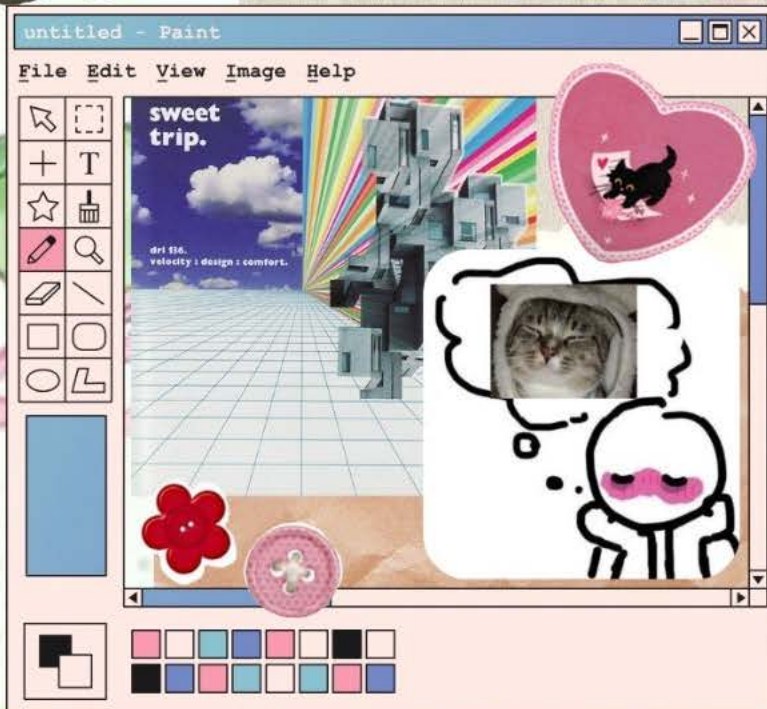
Storytime: I was once a CS200 Student
#EMOTIONAL#NOTCLICKBAIT

- One aspect of CS200 that I have always loved is how large the class is. While it definitely took me a while to find my groove, I really benefitted from going out on a limb and striking up conversations with others during lab and hours. I even ended up finding my sophomore year roommate and gym buddy in CS200, so you never know! viva la CS200 d:3 -> Habram A.
- I took cs0200 in its early stages (Spring 2023), and at the time, I didn't realize just how much I was struggling. I would sit in lecture, but I wasn't really present—I often found myself playing games, zoning out, or simply feeling lost. When I took the midterm, reality hit me hard—I bombed it. I thought I understood the material because I had gone to hours, but looking back, I was only seeking quick fixes rather than true conceptual understanding. I wasn't putting in the work where it mattered. By the end of the semester, I managed to scrape by with a B, but I knew I hadn't done my best. It wasn't until I became a TA, helping students who felt just as lost as I once did, that I realized how many incredible resources this class truly offers. Office hours aren't just a place to get answers—they're a place to learn, to ask questions without judgment, and to build the confidence to tackle problems head-on. Whether it's hours with a TA, a review session, or even just stopping by Kathi's office to ask for help—support is always there. I wish I had taken full advantage of it back then, but now, as a TA, I want to make sure every student knows that they can!
  -> Alessandro G.

Resources of the week (^..^)ς

- MOSAIC+ focusing on creating community for underrepresented minority students in CS at Brown (and has many of ur CS200 TAs within it!): https://mosaicplus.github.io/ -> H.A.
- this isn't a brown club but it is a community that I really love: colorstack. https://www.colorstack.org/ its a community for Black and Latinx Computer Science students, and they have a bunch of different company partners who come to career fairs and participate in their resume book. It is a very supportive community and I have gotten many opportunities through it! -> Yasmine A.
- join WBRU editorial if you'd like to write about music and be a part of the nation's first college radio station! -> Y.S.
- Hack@Brown - A.G.

Media from your amazing, beautiful, wonderful TAs :

- Mauvais Présage - Requin Chagrin (French), O Sopro do Coração - Clã (Portuguese) Sognando e Risognando - Lucio Battisti (Italian) Major Tom - Peter Schilling (German) Baile Inolvidable - Bad Bunny (Spanish) -> Alessandro G.
- Severance has been so so so so good recently everyone should watch. Also plugging my fav album Velocity: Design Comfort, its a bit out there but fans of shoegaze and computers may enjoy -> Yali S.
- mmm most recently have been listening to Jason Joshua and Thee Sacred Souls (check out Weak for Your Love in particular) >w< -> Habram A.

I eat apples

Thank you for reading!! ɱ^>ɯ<^ ɐ

Can you peel an apple for me?

CS0200 Newsletter

Storytime: I was once a cs0200 TA #emotional#NOTCLICKBAIT

CS200 was the first class where I truly got the feeling that I am doing "Computer Science". Sometimes, it can be very frustrating: there will be assignments where you won't get full credit, and there will be bugs that will drive you crazy. I remember losing half of the points simply because I forgot to include necessary screenshots in my submission, even though I felt like I really mastered the assignment. I remember late Decision Tree nights where I was ready to give it all up. However, in moments like this, the important part is to keep going! The pump of endorphins after finishing a tough project makes you forget all of the horrific bugs that lurked in your code. Most importantly, struggling is how you get better. There are AIs now that can basically complete assignments for you, but these assignments provide fundamentals that your knowledge relies on. The more work you put in now, the better you will feel in later courses/your career! - Bohdan K.

during the last lab of the semester, i was able to talk to my tas a bit about what classes i should take in the upcoming semesters, and it was a reminder that my tas were also resources for navigating cs@brown!! the chance to hold that role for someone else was part of what motivated me to apply to become a ta ☝ - Faith M.

Media, Recs, and Resources from your amazing, cool, genius TAs:

- its the 25th year anniversary of Elliott Smith's figure 8 and all cs200 students have a duty to check it out if they aren't already familiar - Y.S.
- The Center for Career Exploration (specifically Careers in Technology & Tech Ventures)! Viktor has done a great job revamping the professional development resources for CS students. If you're overwhelmed, I highly recommend visiting the site to see what they offer, reaching out to Viktor, or attending the open hours :) - K.W.
- On repeat for late debugging nights (it works): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nC3Dd3eqZy8&ab_channel=Amellifera - B.K.
- Anyone who is a fan of volleyball, keep an eye out for our open gyms/events! https://www.instagram.com/brownmensvolleyball?igsh=aXd4azk2MXZvc3pi - B.K.
- Better Days (ft. John Mayer) - Zach Bryan, John Mayer - K.Z.
- The Grappling & MMA Club (GAMMA) meets Monday & Thursday 6-8pm at the Campus Center basement. Whether it be jiu-jitsu or kickboxing, it's a great way to sweat the stress out with some other dudes/dudettes! - K.Z.

Thank you for Reading! <3

CS200

Campus resources & cool events 冈^ >ワ<^)

- Apply to Socially Responsible Computing Program: Interested in socio-technical AI governance, privacy and data protection, accessibility and design justice or UIUX, software engineering, and product development? Apply for this credit-bearing opportunity to contribute to the development of Brown's computer science education and join an interdisciplinary community of students and faculty passionate about developing responsible technologies! Links below!!
- Follow Snail Mail on instagram! They are an amazing club based on making crafts and being creative! Also their events are just super fun ☺ - America M.

Storytime I was once a cs200 student #notclicKbait#emotional

When I was a student I took the class but I didn't actually understand the class. It was a blur of just getting all green on the autograder and cramming for the exams. Not until I moved on to upper level classes after CS200 did I realize how important it was to have an Interface for DL libraries, or to know the idea of a debugger enough to adjust to running a debugger purely in the terminal. Let the content marinate, and it'll all pay back! - Kevin Z.

In my academic weapon era

born to dilly dally

forced to lock in

Media and recs from your wonderful, amazing, fantastic TAs

- Portrait of My Heart by SPELLLING is an album that just came out last friday that I love. Also have been watching Wipeout reruns on netflix recently and the snarky hosts are delightful. - Yali S.
- adolescence on netflix is a really good show that i am watching now - Sarah O.
- Severance season 2 finale was insane - John H.
- The Anastasia musical slaps - Aj W.
- I am in my latine music era so I highly recommend listening to Humbe, Latin Mafia, Liniker, Riza, Beachgoons - America M.
- On my flight back from Germany I watched Anora and Les Fleurs de Monsieur Ibrahim- Alessandro G.
- Minecraft movie. April 4th. - Brendan R.

Thank you for reading!! 冈^>Ш<^ 冈

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Narratives from CS 200 Royalty

I've already spoken in lecture about how I failed the midterm when I took a similar course as an undergrad, and how CS did not come naturally to me. It took me well into my 30s (and my teaching career) to get past imposter syndrome. It only started to let up when I began to value all the things I did, not just the CS-things, and how they worked together. I'm glad I didn't talk myself out of CS back then, and equally glad that I don't measure myself by CS now. Remember, you belong here! - Kathi Fisler, she/hers.
+ kathi music rec: David Garrett (violinist's) cover of Coldplay's Viva la Vida

One of the biggest themes in this class has been tradeoffs—recognizing that there's often more than one "right" answer, thoughtfully weighing options, and choosing approaches that works best for our goals and constraints. Life works the same way. Some of what I consider my best decisions in college were also tradeoffs: staying up late for conversations that mattered, even when assignments were looming; spending time teaching others even when it meant not finishing my own project. I still did (most of) my schoolwork, I spent time understanding the materials and prepping for exams. My education was important to me—it just wasn't the supremely important thing in every moment. It was a trade-off: I wasn't the top student in my classes, I did not get straight As, and there are topics where I wish I spent more time understanding the material. But I still succeeded! I had internships, I graduated, I got into grad school, I finished my PhD, and now I'm starting as a professor at Brandeis this fall. And those friends I had the late-night conversations with? They're still in my life. They'll be standing with me as groomsmen at my wedding this summer. I wouldn't trade that for anything. - Elijah Rivera

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preview.jpg

Academic/Professional Recs From Your Wonderful, Amazing, and Genius TAs

Course recs for next year:
- cs300 and health economics (in the spring w/ my goat ken chay) - Aj W.
- cs320 (hot take) - only being offered in the fall next year - Brendan R.
- stage management if you have even a slight interest in theater and want to step out of the cs bubble! - Kamryn W.
- POLS 1225 nuclear weapons unironically one of the best classes I've ever taken - Faizah N.
- PORTUGUESE → either the language courses or the literary/history courses, Patricia Sobral is my queen- América M.

Other recs:
- If you have not been on Handshake yet, PLS tap in - > offers suggested internship applications and brown specific Q&A and networking events with recruiters online and on-campus
- National Science Foundation - Undergraduate Research Opportunities!! Cool science opportunities across the country during different times of the year.

You gotta stay strong thru the rough times 😔 After all, a rainbow ain't ever been made without a lil rain 🙏❤️

.....glup

I am darkness. I am the night.

A cat and a lowercase cat

It's dangerous to go alone. Take this with you.

Storytime I was once a CS200 Student
#EMOTIONAL#NOTCLICKBAIT

When I took CS200, I once swapped into a lab that was led by four male TAs and also just happened to have unusually high proportions of male students and people who were already comfortable/confident with the material. It also happened to be a lab that took me a long time. I remember a lot of other people breezing through it and leaving until I was the last one there. I didn't feel like the four TAs had a super approachable vibe and they kinda acted like the answers to my questions were obvious, so I felt really hesitant and self-conscious about continuing to ask for help with the lab -- especially when I was one of the only girls in that lab and the person who seemed the least comfortable with the material. While this is a small and relatively harmless example, I want to emphasize that
1) you're not alone if you've had experiences where it feels like people (either other people or yourself) look down on your CS ability because of your gender/race/background 2) the feeling of being worse at CS and/or not belonging in a room, while common, has nothing to do with your actual ability
3) if you ever feel this way this semester, you're welcome to chat about it with whoever on the CS200 staff you feel comfortable with. I'd also really recommend looking into organizations mentioned in previous newsletters, like Mosaic+ and WiCS
Many of the people who talk over you or seem super knowledgable or act like you're stupid have literally no idea what's going on, they're just more confident. So don't hesitate to ask your questions or voice your thoughts -- you belong here :)

Katie Li

Media and Recs from your amazing, super cool, intelligent TAs

- Nobody Gets Me - SZA; About You - The 1975; Dazed & Confused - Ruel ->K.L.
- its the 25th year anniversary of Elliott Smith's figure 8 and all cs200 students have a duty to check it out if they arent already familiar ->Yali S.
- the word for world is forest by ursula k le guin (a cautionary / interesting eco-futuristic book that i recommend for an interesting but thoughtful read) -> Faith M.
- Song of the day: BAILE INoLVIDABLE by Bad Bunny, Podcast: Acquired, Book: Atomic Habits -> Fabio V.
- I've been pretty into Bruce Springsteen and Haikyuu lately. The Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula Le Guin is a great book. -> AJ W.

Ps. Fabio says check out Product@Brown

Thx for reading! ฅ^>ω<^ ฅ

CSCI0200 Newsletter

untitled - Paint

File Edit View Image Help

Media of the week by our amazing cool wonderful staff ´ ᵕ `

- Album: "did you know that there's a tunnel under ocean blvd" by lana del rey (ive been really into it lately) - Philip T.
- Podcast: emergency intercom (if you are brainrot queen/king/royal - P.T.
- Book: "all the world beside" by garrard conley (interesting novel about queer pilgrims) - P.T.
- Favorite Band: Fleetwood Mac - Brendan R.
- song that has been on repeat: Somebody Else (the Role Model cover) - Victoria H.
- show that I have been binge-watching: Gossip Girl - V.H.
- most recent read: Norwegian Wood (by Haruki Murakami) - V.H
- most recent movie watch: Notting Hill - V.H.
- It is scientifically proven that listening to Birds of a Feather on repeat speeds up programming - Margaret Li

Cat Picture(s) of the Week

HANG IN THERE, BABY!

born to dilly dally | forced to lock in

on my puter

Storytime I was once a CS200 student #EMOTIONAL #notclickbait /ˋᝰ・ꊞ・ᝰˊ ...

For me, CS200 was a very rewarding class! I started realizing how many computational tools there are in my disposal and what cool possibilities they bring. For the first time, I was writing/testing longer programs and working through design choices. Programming finally felt like a creative and generative activity rather than following directions and trying not to miss semicolons. But the rewards definitely came with challenges. CS200 was fun but I found it far from being easy. At the end of the day, what helped me manage stress in CS is always recentering my purpose in the discipline. Is it really important that I finish first, get everything right away, and come away with all As? Does the urge to prioritize these achievements really come from their inherent importance or my fixation about other things? It's not easy to answer these questions, but conversations with friends, professors, TAs always help. I hope you all have an awesome time in this class! Dillos are awesome. - Margaret Li

Vividly remember being stuck on HW6 and going to Kathi's office hours for help. I remember I was super scared to go at first because I thought I would look dumb. However, she was SOO helpful with breaking down the problem into smaller steps... I guess the moral of the story is don't be afraid to ask for help/go to office hours (no one will think your dumb!!!)
-Brendan R.

i remember doing a past homework (which now has become alot easier to implement so dw about going through what i went through) where a bunch of us were like huddled in the corner near one of the elevators in the cit trying to debug our implementations and i was trying to get this one little test to pass for an hour or so. i was then next up in the queue when this one legendary ta called me over for our 1:1. it was almost like a miracle when they were able to identify and explain the problem with my code like words couldn't describe how thankful i were for them in that moment. while i hope you all will pass this class with flying colors, i do want to emphasize that in times of need, please be on the lookout for our legendary tas as you progress through cs200!
-Philip Tran

Resources of the week (^˘ω˘^)

Meow! We hope you all had an amazing first week back and set up issues are put aside! For this week our lovely amazing hardworking staff is bring to you some amazing resources here on campus that we hope you are interested in! :

- if you ever want to catch me out of class i'll likely be playing mahjong @brownmahjong on insta or doing some fun cooking workshops with @browncookingclub ! - Philip Tran
- if you ever want to find an alumni mentor within a career path you're interested in, please check out brown connect! https://brownconnectplus.brown.edu/ - P.T.
- (Collegiate-Consulting-Group) -> https://www.brownccg.com/ - Brendan R.
- Brown Consulting Club (BCC)!! best group of people ever, great professional development, valuable work experience (brownconsultingclub.com) - Victoria H.
- Women in CS (WiCS) - great community to connect with gender minorities in CS, mentorship opportunities, social and professional events - V.H.
- Brown SPRINT's!! These are brown generated/sponsored summer research/internship/fellowship opportunities! Make sure to check these out before the application deadline on Feb. 2 !!! https://career-center.brown.edu/jobs-internships/sprint-fellowships/sprint-overview

🔍 Thank you for reading!! ๑^﹥ᴗ﹤^ ๑   ✕